A 40-Day Personal Journey
FOR INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP USE

based on

The Hidden Power of Prayer and Fasting

MAHESH CHAVDA

© Copyright 2007 – Mahesh Chavda

All rights reserved. This book is protected by the copyright laws of the United States of America. This book may not be copied or reprinted for commercial gain or profit. The use of short quotations or occasional page copying for personal or group study is permitted and encouraged. Permission will be granted upon request. Unless otherwise identified, Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. Scriptures marked (KJV) are taken from the King James Version. Scriptures quotations marked (AMP) are taken from the Amplified Bible Copyright © 1987 by the Zondervan Corporation and The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved. Emphasis within Scripture quotes is the author's own. Please note that Destiny Image's publishing style capitalizes certain pronouns in Scripture that refer to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and may differ from some publishers' styles. Take note that the name satan and related names are not capitalized. We choose not to acknowledge him, even to the point of violating grammatical rules.

Mahesh Chavda – *40 Days of Prayer and Fasting* was compiled by Jan Sherman

DESTINY IMAGE® PUBLISHERS, INC.
P.O. Box 310, Shippensburg, PA 17257-0310

"Speaking to the Purposes of God for This Generation and for the Generations to Come"

This book and all other Destiny Image, Revival Press, Mercy Place, Fresh Bread, Destiny Image Fiction, and Treasure House books are available at Christian bookstores and distributors worldwide.

For a U.S. bookstore nearest you, call 1-800-722-6774.
For more information on foreign distributors, call 717-532-3040.
Or reach us on the Internet: www.destinyimage.com

ISBN 10: 0-7684- 2414-3
ISBN 13: 978-0-7684- 2414-0

For Worldwide Distribution, Printed in the U.S.A.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 / 09 08 07 06

Contents

Day 1	Is the Price Too Great?	5
Day 2	Commission Restored	9
Day 3	Not Everyone Understands	13
Day 4	Jesus Is Our Ultimate Model	17
Day 5	The Works of Jesus	21
Day 6	The Secret of Jesus' Power	25
Day 7	The Secret Power of the Spirit	29
Day 8	The Life Giving Benefits of Fasting	33
Day 9	Why Do We Fast? Part 1	39
Day 10	Why Do We Fast? Part 2	45
Day 11	Why Do We Fast? Part 3	51
Day 12	Consult Your Written Job Description	57
Day 13	Why Me, Lord?	63
Day 14	Take a Lesson From History	67
Day 15	Humility: The Position of Triumph	71
Day 16	Many Christians Feel Almost Helpless	75
Day 17	The Difference Between Victory and Triumph	79
Day 18	Position Yourself for More	83
Day 19	Are You a Casualty in the Ministry?	87
Day 20	Failure Because of Unbelief	91
Day 21	Focus on Jesus	95

Day 22 Back to Base One 99
Day 23 Arrows of Pain, Arrows of Triumph 103
Day 24 Rebuilding the Ancient Ruins 109
Day 25 Eight Arrows of God's Victory 115
Day 26 Prayer Pioneers and the Facts of Fasting 121
Day 27 God Wants to Take Away Our Ignorance About Fasting 127
Day 28 Different Types of Fasts 131
Day 29 Dos and Don'ts in Fasting 135
Day 30 Fasting…From Start to Finish 139
Day 31 Corporate Prayer and End-Time Revival 143
Day 32 The Power of the Symphony of Harmonious Prayer 147
Day 33 Persistent Prayer and God's Favor 151
Day 34 It's Time to Take Back the Wall! 155
Day 35 Exchange Your Independence for Interdependence 159
Day 36 Revelation Truth Is True at Every Level 163
Day 37 How to Release the Apostolic Anointing 167
Day 38 He Has Called Us to Fast, Pray, and Obey 173
Day 39 The Abundance of Rain Is Coming 179
Day 40 Now That's the Power of God! 183

✝ DAY 1 ✝

Is the Price Too Great?

Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:21-23).

† Today's Devotion †

Despite what I had read in the Bible, I debated over whether I should become a Christian because the price seemed to be too great to pay. If I dared to confess Christ, I knew I would be rejected by my family, including my mother and my brothers and sisters; and I would lose any status I had in the Hindu world. In fact, to my knowledge, I would be the first in my caste ever to turn his back on the Hindu faith.

Finally, I said, "I'm not going to read the Bible anymore. I'm not even going to think about Jesus anymore." Suddenly I went into a trance-like sleep. I found my consciousness walking on streets of gold. There was living light all around me. I heard music that put me in perfect ecstasy. My eyes were drawn to a light brighter than 10,000 suns. In the midst of this light was the person of Jesus. From the presence of this glory emanated the purest love. He came toward me, put His hands on my shoulder, and said, "My little brother." I knew I had met my Savior and Lord.

When I woke up, I discovered that my Bible lay open to the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus spoke to the rich young ruler: I read the passage and realized that the rich young man who had come to the Lord ended up walking away because he thought the price was too great to pay. Then the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "Are you going to be the same way?"

I said, "No, Sir," and immediately received the Lord Jesus as my Savior, breaking untold generations of strict family tradition and devotion to Hinduism.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Mahesh Chavda thought that the price to follow Jesus was too great because of what he was facing. Has God asked you to pay a price to walk with Him? What is it? Has the price ever seemed too much for you to pay?

2. Sometimes the price we are asked to pay comes not at our conversion to Christianity, but during our walk following salvation. Have you found there have been prices to pay that seemed "unfair" or too much for you to bear?

3. Is there anything that God could ask you today that would seem too great a price? What can you do to ensure a "yes" answer if, in the future, God asks you to pay such a price?

4. How does God help us when He asks us to pay a high price for our walk with Him? What are some of God's promises about bearing crosses for Him? How does He strengthen us? Encourage our hearts?

5. In *The Hidden Power of Prayer and Fasting*, the author shares a vision he had that helped him become willing to pay the price God was asking. Have you ever experienced a vision or dream where God was preparing you for a sacrifice He was asking you to make?

† MEDITATION †

"Very clearly I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit say, 'This kind goes not out but by prayer and fasting'" from Matthew 17:21.

Mahesh Chavda learned the importance of prayer and fasting. How important are these in your life? Does your time and energy reflect their importance?

✝ DAY 2 ✝

Commission Restored

JESUS IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER (HEBREWS 13:8).

✝ Today's Devotion ✝

While I was in graduate school, I received the news that my mother was going to die in just a few weeks because she had a fast-moving and untreatable form of bone cancer that was eating up her body.

I had come to the end of myself. I didn't have answers for myself or my mother. I was just a poor graduate student in Texas and I didn't have money to go to England. It just broke me. I had come to the end of myself, and all I could do was weep uncontrollably. After three days of tears and sorrow, I had an unusual experience.

I went to sleep, and I was taken to a grassy place kneeling before the feet of Jesus. Jesus had laid His hands on my shoulders, and I was surprised to realize that I was singing to Him in a language I could not understand. Then I woke up, and I knew something had happened. I had been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Ghost became very real to me from that day on. He started speaking to me, and I quickly realized that He is a Person. He started telling me about Jesus. He said, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever." I asked, "What does this mean?" I sensed His reply. "Jesus is healer today just as He was 2,000 years ago." The Holy Spirit instructed me to pray for my mother in England right there in Texas. A few days later I received the news. My mother was healed. She lived for 26 more years. Jesus is truly the same!

† QUESTIONS †

1. What does the author mean when he says that he had "come to the end of myself"? Do you identify with such a feeling? What can you do when you feel like you are at the end of your rope?

2. Have you ever come to the point where you could do nothing more to help someone or to help a particular situation? What does God tell us about "hopeless situations"? Can you find verses in the Bible that discuss times of hopelessness? What promises does God make to the hopeless?

3. Mahesh Chavda's encounter with God resulted in a supernatural infilling by the Holy Spirit and the gift of a new heavenly language. Why do you think God chose this time to bring this experience to Mahesh? Have you seen God work in a new and different way in your life when you least expected it?

4. Have you experienced an increase in the anointing as you pray in the language of the Holy Spirit? How does a spiritual language help our faith? How does it bring direct communication between God and man?

5. The author was given the gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit at a time of great need. What has the baptism of the Holy Spirit meant to your life? How does it bring God's power to bear in your experiences?

† MEDITATION †

"I kept singing in this strange language for an hour and a half."

Have you spent a significant amount of time speaking or singing in a heavenly language? What effect can spending a quantity of time communing with God in the language of the Holy Spirit have on someone? If you are not in the habit of praying in the Spirit on a regular basis, make a point of praying in your heavenly language for twenty minutes a day for the next few weeks. What are the benefits of doing so?

✝ DAY 3 ✝

Not Everyone Understands

At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes" (Matthew 11:25).

† Today's Devotion †

In my early years as a Christian, I did not fully understand what the Lord was doing, but I knew that I loved Jesus. I also knew that He had asked me to fast and pray for His people whom He loved. All I wanted to do was obey.

I quickly discovered that not everyone understood or accepted what I was doing. There were some who accused me of being a fanatic, and others simply thought that I was overly religious. My worst critics thought that I was self-righteous, and I have to admit that the criticism and misunderstanding were painful at times. Nevertheless, I knew that whenever a believer hears a word or request from the Lord, he or she had better do it.

Sometimes it is inevitable that obedience to these divine imperatives will create opposition—even among the brethren. Most of the time it is because the enemy of our souls will go to any length to stir up opposition to activities that seriously threaten his dark kingdom. When you are doing spiritual warfare through prayer, praise, worship, intercession, and fasting, I can guarantee that the enemy will come to raise up supernatural hindrances and obstacles in your path.

† QUESTIONS †

1. The author obeyed what the Lord told Him to do but many misunderstood. Has this ever happened to you?

2. Have you ever been labeled as a fanatic? Has anyone accused you of being overly religious? Have you ever been told that you were self-righteous? What do these labels do to your sense of fitting in with those around you? What should you do about such labels?

3. How do you handle people's misunderstanding your intentions? Does misunderstanding ever affect your focus on what God has said? Has it ever affected your obedience to God's voice?

4. Mahesh Chavda received authority because of his obedience during the times of testing he experienced. How does the Lord work in your life?

5. What kinds of supernatural hindrances have you ever faced when determining to do spiritual warfare? What obstacles might you face now if you determined to enter a season of fasting and prayer?

† MEDITATION †

"You cannot impart something that you do not have."

What does this mean? How can prayer
and fasting bring a real impartation
from God and therefore strengthen what
you are able to impart to those around you?

✝ DAY 4 ✝

Jesus Is Our Ultimate Model

"As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (John 20:21b).

† Today's Devotion †

This is the Lord's word to every disciple who hears His voice. Jesus is our ultimate model in life, in faith, and in ministry. According to Him, we are called and anointed to follow in His footsteps as "sent ones" into the world.

It would have sounded grandiose if Jesus had told the disciples hiding in that locked room, "You are going to change the world and reshape history—of the Roman Empire and other Gentile nations of which you have never heard," but it was true nevertheless. After that momentous meeting, an anointed army went forth that was full of the Holy Ghost. It moved relentlessly from city to city and from nation to nation, proclaiming the gospel that changed the destiny of humanity and transformed lives.

That army is about to rise up again! Jesus was sent *to do a job*. He, as our ultimate model and guide, has imparted that same vision, authority, and responsibility to us! As you and I receive the good news, we are transformed into supernatural shapers of history. We can change the destiny of our churches, our cities, our nation, and even other nations around the world through our obedience to the vision Jesus had—*but it will take the power of God*.

† QUESTIONS †

1. The author defines Jesus' disciples as "sent ones." Sent to whom? To whom have you been sent?

2. You too are called and anointed to follow Jesus' example as one who is sent. Is this how you see yourself? Find Scriptures that describe your job description and allow them to transform your image into what God has envisioned for you.

3. How do we become transformed into supernatural shapers of history? What is the key to our success?

4. What role does our faith or belief in Jesus play in our ability to do the works that the Lord commissioned us to do? Do you have such a faith?

5. Is Jesus the ultimate model for your life and calling and ministry? By what do you measure your walk as a disciple? Identify areas of your life that you measure by other standards than Jesus. Why?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"We shouldn't judge the disciples of Jesus too harshly for locking themselves away from the outside world…they went into 'survival mode' after Jesus left their sight because they underestimated the power of God and the fullness of His plan."

Have you ever "locked yourself away" or hidden yourself from the world and its problems? How does this isolation produce a "maintenance" mentality? What does "survival mode" look like in your life? When is it most likely to appear? What can you do to pray and prepare so that you avoid such pitfalls?

✝ DAY 5 ✝

The Works of Jesus

THE WORKS THAT I DO [YOU] WILL DO ALSO; AND **GREATER WORKS THAN THESE** [YOU] WILL DO, BECAUSE I GO TO MY FATHER (JOHN 14:12B).

† Today's Devotion †

These words are the encouragement of the Lord for our generation! If Jesus is going to come soon, this divine promise must be fulfilled first. I am confessing that we will see "greater works" in this generation!

Since Jesus is our model, and we are ordained to do the works and one day even greater works, we need to look at them.

The first work of Jesus came in the wilderness. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and *fasted* for 40 days while being tempted. Satan came to Jesus with the three great temptations he has always used on man:

1. He questioned the Lord's identity as the Son of God and tempted Him to use His power for selfish purposes by turning a stone into bread to satisfy His hunger.

2. The devil tempted the Lord to grasp the authority and glory of all the kingdoms of the earth—a devilish short-cut to the "top"—if He would only worship the devil.

3. The devil again questioned the Lord's identity and used Scripture quoted out of context to entice Him to throw His life down and trust in the angels to save Him—again for the self-serving purpose of "proving something."

Jesus defeated the tempter every time using the Word of God, saying, "It is written…."

† QUESTIONS †

1. Specifically, what do you think it means to do the works and even "greater works"? In the area of healing? Deliverance? Provision? Restoration?

2. Have you done the works of Jesus? Do you know someone who has done the works of Jesus? Why do you think we don't see more of these evident in the Church today?

3. Reread the account of Jesus' temptation in Luke 4. Think through the first temptation. How does satan use this temptation to starve the Church from producing the works of Jesus?

4. How does the devil use the second temptation to shortchange us from seeing works of Jesus today? How are authority and glory a trap for many inside the Church?

5. How is the third temptation used to directly attack the ability for us to do the works of Jesus? Which of these three temptations plagues you the most? How do you prevent yourself from falling into these temptations?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"John 14:12b is the encouragement, the heavenly vision, the timely Word of the Lord for our generation!"

Is this true for you in particular? Does it hold true for your local church? Pray for this to become real to a greater degree for you and those around you.

✝ DAY 6 ✝

The Secret of Jesus' Power

THEN JESUS RETURNED **IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT** TO GALILEE, AND NEWS OF HIM WENT OUT THROUGH ALL THE SURROUNDING REGION (LUKE 4:14).

† Today's Devotion †

How could Jesus do these things and accomplish the astounding miracles we see throughout the four Gospels? The secret of His power is found in Luke 4:14: "Then Jesus returned *in the power of the Spirit* to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region."

Look carefully at the difference between verses 1 and 14 of Luke chapter 4: Before the temptation in the wilderness, the Bible says that Jesus was *filled with the Spirit*. That is a good thing, but look at verse 14. At the end of the wilderness temptation and 40 days of fasting, Jesus had totally defeated satan and came out of that experience *in the power of the Spirit!* So there is a clear difference between being *filled* with the Spirit and operating in the *power* of the Spirit! Something transformed Jesus from being a "Spirit-filled" man into a man who walked in the "power" of the Spirit. We need to make the secret of Jesus' power the secret of *our power*, because He is, after all, our ultimate model.

Jesus fully completed the process in only 40 days, but it would probably take you and me much longer. The important point here is to *begin*.

† QUESTIONS †

1. What do you think was the secret to the power of the Spirit for Jesus? Do we need to have a 40-day wilderness fast and be tempted by the devil to receive such power? What do we need to do?

2. Describe the *power of the Spirit*. How can you tell the difference between being filled with the Spirit and moving in the power of the Spirit? What does the difference mean to you? Where are you operating in the Spirit currently?

3. Jesus defeated satan in the wilderness. Have you ever felt that you had defeated satan in a particular situation or with a specific issue? What made the difference so that you were able to secure your victory? Did you gain anything from the experience?

4. What do you think transformed Jesus in the desert to operate in the power of the Spirit? What role did the temptations play? What role did prayer and fasting play? Where would you like to be transformed in the power of the Spirit? What will it take for you to receive that power?

5. If God were to ask you to immediately go into a wilderness experience where you were to fast and pray, would you be prepared to obey? Why or why not? What encumbrances keep us from making such a choice?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"Jesus Christ showed us the way and personally modeled it for us. The disciples were with Jesus for three years, yet it was only after the wilderness of the crucifixion and being in one accord in prayer that they received the infilling of the Holy Spirit and the power to boldly proclaim the gospel."

What will it take for you to be empowered to be the disciple God wants you to be? Take time to pray for a time of renewal in your life.

✝ DAY 7 ✝

The Secret Power of the Spirit

FOR THOUGH WE WALK IN THE FLESH, WE DO NOT WAR ACCORDING TO THE FLESH. FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL BUT MIGHTY IN GOD FOR PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS, CASTING DOWN ARGUMENTS AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, BRINGING EVERY THOUGHT INTO CAPTIVITY TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST, AND BEING READY TO PUNISH ALL DISOBEDIENCE WHEN YOUR OBEDIENCE IS FULFILLED (2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6).

† Today's Devotion †

Being filled with the Spirit does not make you ready to move into the fullness of your calling in power. We need to submit to the discipline of the Holy Spirit in the crucial works of prayer, fasting, and the skillful use of His Word as a weapon. *Then* we will go forth in the *power* of the Spirit to do God's will.

Fasting helps release the power of the Spirit in our lives. It facilitates the freer flow of the Holy Spirit through you by removing all the junk in your life. This can only be accomplished through times of fasting and prayer.

If you give yourself to the Lord in a life that's committed to prayer and to fasting, His anointing will begin to flow through you in greater and greater power.

The difference between the *anointing* of the Spirit and the *power* of the Spirit is dramatic. The disciples had enjoyed success during an extensive tour of ministry, but suddenly they hit rock bottom when they encountered an evil spirit that refused to yield to the delegated authority the disciples had (see Matt. 17:14-21). They didn't have the power to overcome the demon they faced. The credibility of their ministry had been totally compromised.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Why is submitting to the discipline of the Holy Spirit so key to our accomplishing our mission on earth? What does submitting to the discipline of the Holy Spirit mean? How is this accomplished?

2. How have you been disciplined by the Holy Spirit? Do these crucial works reflect the amount of power you have in the Spirit to do God's will?

3. The author tells us that fasting is a primary element to releasing God's power in our lives. Why is this so? What is your experience with fasting and the power of God available to you?

4. Have you seen the difference between the *infilling* of the Spirit and the *power* of the Spirit in your own life? What makes the difference? What can the power of the Spirit accomplish that the anointing cannot do?

5. Have you ever found a time where you have hit a wall like the disciples did, as described in Matthew 17? Have you prayed to the point where you felt like you could accomplish nothing else to change the situation or relationship? Were you able to overcome it with the power of the Spirit? Is this power real to you on a consistent basis?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"If you give yourself to the Lord in a life
that's committed to prayer and to fasting,
His anointing will begin to flow
through you in greater and greater power."

How have you seen this work in your experience? How has the anointing come to your ministry and life? What are some ways that you can incorporate prayer and fasting into your lifestyle in order to release an increase of the flow of the anointing through your life?

✝ DAY 8 ✝

The Life Giving Benefits of Fasting

Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? (Isaiah 58:6)

✝ Today's Devotion ✝

Isaiah 58 is one of the best chapters in the Bible on the subject of fasting. There are at least 12 specific benefits of "the fast that God has chosen" listed in this passage:

1. Revelation
2. Healing and wholeness
3. Righteousness
4. The presence of the *shekinah* glory of God
5. Answered prayers
6. Continual guidance
7. Contentment
8. Refreshing
9. Strength
10. Work that endures (like an ever-flowing spring)
11. Raising up of future generations
12. Restoration

I want you to see the people who are in bondage all around you. They are broken, hurting, and desperate under demonizing influences. In many cases psychologists cannot help them, nor can psychiatrists. God's Word says that this kind won't even come out by a simple command in the name of Jesus Christ—they do not come out except through prayer and fasting. That, my friend, is what the Lord is asking us to do. Are you willing to pay the price to set the captives free? Are you willing to set the captives free in your church, in your neighborhood, and in your city? We are called to set the captives free, and the Lord has given us mighty weapons to pull down the strongholds.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Think about the 12 specific benefits of "the fast that God has chosen" from Isaiah 58. How evident are these benefits at work in your life?

Benefit	Experience in my daily walk.	Desire More	Need Desperately
Revelation			
Healing and wholeness			
Righteousness			
The presence of the *shekinah* glory of God			
Answered prayers			
Continual guidance			
Contentment			
Refreshing			
Strength			
Work that endures			
Raising up of future generations			
Restoration			

2. Which of the 12 are you most desperate for today? Why?

3. The Lord says that these are the specific breakthroughs that come when we fast. Take one of the needs from your "desperate" column and begin to fast and pray to see this specific breakthrough manifest in your life.

4. Mahesh Chavda challenges us, "Are you willing to pay the price to set the captives free?" Of course the ultimate price was paid by Christ at Calvary, but our prayer and fasting releases this victory in specific situations. Identify captives that you know by name. What freedoms do they need? How should you pray and fast for these needs?

† MEDITATION †

"Everyone seeking deliverance from an entangling sin or chronic weakness needs to get desperate. If parents want to see their children healed or set free of demonic oppression, then they need to get desperate for their children. If they are truly humble and desperate before the Lord as they fast for themselves or for their children, then they will often find that it becomes easy to experience or minister deliverance."

Are you desperate for something in your life or in the life of a loved one? Take time to humble yourself before the Lord and to fast for the issue at hand.

✝ DAY 9 ✝

Why Do We Fast? Part 1

BUT IN ALL THINGS WE COMMEND OURSELVES AS MINISTERS OF GOD: IN MUCH PATIENCE, IN TRIBULATIONS, IN NEEDS, IN DISTRESSES, IN STRIPES, IN IMPRISONMENTS, IN TUMULTS, IN LABORS, IN SLEEPLESSNESS, IN FASTINGS; BY PURITY, BY KNOWLEDGE, BY LONGSUFFERING, BY KINDNESS, BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BY SINCERE LOVE (2 CORINTHIANS 6:4-6).

† Today's Devotion †

I've compiled a list of nine biblical reasons that we fast. We will study these in the next three journal entries.

1. *We fast in obedience to God's Word.*

   Fasting is deeply embedded in God's Word. It is a tool of overcoming leaders in both the Old and New Testaments. If the Bible record is any indication, then "Winners fast and losers don't."

2. *We fast to humble ourselves before God and obtain His grace and power.*

   We all need His continuous power to live the victorious Christian life daily. Fasting keeps you honest. If you want power and grace from God, then you have to humble yourself (see James 4:10). The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of grace. If you want the Spirit of grace, if you want the anointing, you humble yourself.

3. *We fast to overcome temptations in areas that keep us from moving into God's power.*

   If the anointing is not flowing freely through you, that is a good sign that you need to fast and pray. It is time to clear the channel so God's Spirit can flow through you. Jesus came out of a wilderness of temptation in the power of the Spirit. When Jesus had soundly whipped the devil, He went forth in power.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Do you perceive yourself as a "winner or a loser" in the biblical sense of the words? Why is fasting so integrally tied into a winner's life? How can fasting help us walk as an overcomer?

2. What are areas where you walk more like a victim than an overcomer? Look at Joel 2:12 and Matthew 9:15. What is the biblical model to release victorious power in times of great need.

3. How often do you need grace? Do you need to tap into God's power to accomplish the callings and vision He has placed in your heart? How difficult would it be to fast one day per week to "keep the plugs clean" in your life?

4. What benefits are there to humility? What Scriptures come to mind that deal with humility as a source to do what God desires? What is your current humility quotient? Ask someone who would be honest with you to rate your humility level, as they see it.

5. Have there been times that you have experienced the Lord's voice in a particularly clear manner? Do you desire to experience this flow at a higher level than today? What are some of the ways that the Lord has instructed us clear this channel for His Spirit to flow through us?

† MEDITATION †

"Many of these points get down to the 'nitty gritty' areas of the Christian life, and they answer some of the most common questions I've been asked about fasting over the last two decades."

Before embarking on this study, did you realize that prayer and fasting were so integral to our walk of faith? Can you identify harmful attitudes addressed by fasting that you have had either toward yourself or others that have hindered your walk as an overcomer? How has your outlook on prayer and fasting changed as a result of this revelation?

✝ DAY 10 ✝

Why Do We Fast? Part 2

My knees are weak through fasting, and my flesh is feeble from lack of fatness. I also have become a reproach to them; when they look at me, they shake their heads. Help me, O Lord my God! Oh, save me according to Your mercy, that they may know that this is Your hand—that You, Lord, have done it! Let them curse, but You bless… (Psalm 109:24-28).

† Today's Devotion †

This is the second part of a list of nine reasons that we fast.

4. *We fast to be purified from sin (and to help others become purified as well).*

   Jesus Christ took away all the sins of the world on the cross at Calvary. Yet many of us have to deal with "besetting" sins that seem to keep popping up. God wants us not only to defeat these entangling sins in our own lives, but also to go beyond our own needs to stand in the gap as intercessors for others.

5. *We fast to become weak before God so God's power can be strong.*

   When you fast, you are making a conscious inward choice demonstrated by an outward act that you want God's power to flow through you, not your own. You want God's answer, not yours. If we become completely weak before God, the Lord will send us out in His power.

6. *We fast to obtain God's support in order to accomplish His will.*

   The leaders at the church in Antioch fasted and prayed before they sent out Barnabas and Paul. This was done so the leaders would make the right choice, *and* it was done to ensure their success in the Gospel mission.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Do you identify with the idea of "besetting" or entangling sins? Do you have issues that persist in your life? How does God want you to gain victory over these?

2. Have you seen God bring you out of a besetting sin and have a testimony about His grace? What have you done with this experience that could help others? What might you do in the future?

3. Have you ever felt "lazy" in the spiritual part of your life? Why do you think this happened to you? Were you able to get out of it? What disciplines are important for us to push past lethargy and spiritual slothfulness?

4. Why does God tell us to become weak so His power can be strong? Since this goes contrary to most worldly logic, how do you explain its operational success? Have you experienced the weak=strong link?

5. How does fasting relate to accomplishing God's will? How does accomplishing His will define how successful we have been in this life? Where are you accomplishing the will of the Lord?

† MEDITATION †

"Fasting for purity can be pretty confusing at times because of the very nature of the cleansing process. Fasting has a way of bringing every unseemly habit and irritation you've got just bubbling to the surface."

Have you found this to be true in your experience? What are some of the unseemly habits that surface when you fast? Make a note of them and as they come to the surface, thank the Lord for exposing them and pray for His cleansing and deliverance in that area of your life.

† DAY 11 †

Why Do We Fast? Part 3

Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions (Ezra 8:21).

† Today's Devotion †

This is the third part of a list of 9 reasons as to why we fast.

7. *We fast in times of crisis.*

   Men have always turned to God in prayer and fasting in times of crisis. In such times, we may need to fast most aggressively and totally abstain from food and water. Do not do this fast for more than three days unless you are in the literal glory and presence of God.

8. *We fast when seeking God's direction.*

   When you need God's direction, when you are confused about which way to go, one of the best things you can do is *fast*. This is especially true in the sometimes confusing area of personal relationships, particularly for those believers trying to make a choice about whom to marry.

9. *We fast for understanding and divine revelation.*

   We need more than direction. We need revelation and understanding of certain matters, situations, or truths in the Bible. Sometimes the Lord's revelation doesn't necessarily come at the time of the fast, but later on. Demonic obstructions hold us or cling to us with several arms. Every time you pray under the anointing, *something happens*. Keep praying through until the last tentacle comes off and you see the healing and deliverance!

† QUESTIONS †

1. Do you fast when you are in a crisis? Does your prayer level go up several notches? Why is this so?

2. Read Esther 4:15-16. When Esther called a fast, it was for a crisis of national importance. What results did the Jews experience? Has God asked you to fast for a national crisis? What happens when God's people humble themselves in prayer and fasting?

3. Have you fasted and prayed when seeking God's direction? Has this ever cleared up any confusion you may have had? Are God's answers always the most logical? How does prayer and fasting shake out the cobwebs of our own strength and replace them with the clear voice of the Lord?

4. Have you received revelation from God during a time of fasting and prayer? Think about how the revelation came to you and the importance it had for you. Have you ever seen a delayed revelation come after a time of fasting and prayer?

5. How do revelation and understanding often let us see "through the eyes of the Spirit"? What sorts of things might we see? Have you experienced this type of revelation?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"Every time you pray under the anointing something happens. You can count on that."

Recall times that you have seen God answer your prayers. In the next few weeks keep a journal and think about these questions as you set aside time for specific prayer and fasting: What has the Lord shown you during these times? How have you seen His power released into your life or specific situation as you have lifted them before Him?

✝ DAY 12 ✝

Consult Your Written Job Description

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease (Matthew 9:37–10:1).

† Today's Devotion †

Your job description is to feel what God feels for the world and to *do something about it*. As far as God is concerned, you are the deputy with the authority, the badge, and the weapons of enforcement He left behind to deal with the works of the enemy.

All three synoptic Gospels record the day Jesus gave His disciples the authority and the command to cast out demons and heal the sick. This job description was really a partial one for two reasons. First, it was a faint mirror image of Jesus' own call from Isaiah 61. It was but a foretaste or sample of what would come to pass *after* Jesus had finished His work on the cross and given His followers the incredible gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit beginning on Pentecost Day. Secondly, the disciples ran into a seemingly insurmountable obstacle later on when they encountered the demon that refused to budge below the Mount of Transfiguration (see Matt. 17:21; Mark 9:29). That was the day the disciples learned about the "hidden power" of fasting and prayer in the ministry of deliverance and signs and wonders.

✝ QUESTIONS ✝

1. Create a Kingdom Job Description for yourself. Fill in the blanks:

   Position: Spiritual Harvest Laborer

   Main Responsibilities: _____

   _____

   Qualifications: _____

   _____

   Goals: _____

   _____

   Reporting: _____

   _____

2. Create a second Job Description. Fill in the blanks:

   Position: Demon Exterminator

   Main Responsibilities: _____

   _____

   Qualifications: _____

   _____

   Goals: _____

   _____

   Reporting: _____

   _____

3. Create a third Job Description, filling in the blanks:

   Position: Miracle Worker With a Specialty in Healing

   Main Responsibilities: _____

   _____

   Qualifications: _____

   _____

   Goals: _____

   _____

   Reporting: _____

   _____

4. Read Isaiah 61:1-3. The author says that this is Jesus' job description, and it is the job description of all who believe in Him. How many of these descriptors do you fill?

5. What are ways that you can prepare yourself to minister in the anointing He has called us to walk in?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"Mahesh Chavda tells us that the Spirit of God gave him compassion for those with diseases. 'People in all nations are hurting and broken without the message of Jesus Christ.' The Lord told him, 'Share the message of life.'"

What kind of compassion do you have for those whom you have never met? Do you identify with their physical and emotional needs? Do you feel responsible to faithfully pray for their spiritual needs? Name one person for whom you should exercise compassion over the next few days and make a plan to demonstrate your Christ like love.

† DAY 13 †

Why Me, Lord?

THEREFORE, TO HIM WHO KNOWS TO DO GOOD AND DOES NOT DO IT, TO HIM IT IS SIN (JAMES 4:17).

✝ Today's Devotion ✝

Many Christians go out of their way to avoid responsibility for others, but they don't realize that they are following the pattern of Cain, who asked the Lord, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The Lord's answer is still the same: "Yes."

Jeremiah stressed the eternal consequences of our responsibility to help rescue others, "*…Thus says the Lord: 'Execute judgment in the morning; and deliver him who is plundered out of the hand of the oppressor, lest My fury go forth like fire and burn so that no one can quench it…'*" (Jer. 21:12). We know the truth, we have the power to set people free, and we have a command and a commission to do just that.

The apostles of the first century were people who prayed and fasted often. They manifested almost every single work seen in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.

It is time for us to take back the territory the enemy has stolen from God's people. God wants us to dwell in intimate relationship and obedience to His will. When we reclaim our inheritance as the sons and daughters of God and begin to seek His face in prayer and fasting, all the miracles of the Gospels and the Book of Acts will come roaring back into the everyday existence of the Church!

† QUESTIONS †

1. Why do Christians avoid responsibility for others? Have you avoided responsibility for someone that God has clearly put in your path for you to serve?

2. Jeremiah 21:12 tells us that we are to be rescuers. Why does this label make many feel uncomfortable? Even when we know our responsibility, we still duck out of the way. How can we learn to accept our directive to serve others with grace?

3. The apostles of the first century believed Jesus when He commanded them to preach, heal, release and confirm through signs and wonders. Do you take Jesus at His word today? What filters may be hindering your faith?

4. Do you think it is possible that you will see a time when the works and miracles that Jesus performed will be manifested in the Church? Why or why not? What could make the difference?

5. How can we reclaim our inheritance? How should we act as sons and daughters of God? How great should our expectation be?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"Just as the disciples of old were expected
to preach the gospel, command repentance,
pray for the sick, and cast out devils,
so the same is expected of you and me!"

How do you feel about such an expectation? Do you sense that people are expecting these things or that the Lord expects these from you? Take time to raise your expectation level by praying that God transplants His expectations to your heart.

† DAY 14 †

Take a Lesson From History

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED; TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD (LUKE 4:18-19).

✝ Today's Devotion ✝

History is a great teacher, and those generations that have heeded its lessons have been wiser than those that did not. The difficult period surrounding World War II and the Jewish Holocaust holds many examples that demonstrate the urgent need for servants of the light to stand up and be counted in the war against the servants of darkness. Oskar Schindler rescued 1,200 Jewish people whose lives and family lineage would otherwise have been extinguished forever in the ovens of Nazi Germany's extermination camps. Schindler spent the entire fortune he made to buy lives from Hitler's death lists. Yet, Schindler thought he could have done more.

There is a prophetic voice crying out through Oskar Schindler that says with the authority of God, "Without Christ, every soul will perish. The ultimate purpose for all believers is to rescue those held under sin's bondage of death. The one commission for everyone who believes on Jesus is to *save others*." The only eternal aspect of our lives on earth is our investment in the eternal life of others.

Are you prepared to do the works of Jesus as you have been commanded to do? Then you must be prepared to pay the price and say with Jesus to your generation, "*Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing*" (Luke 4:21b).

† QUESTIONS †

1. The story of Oskar Schindler illustrates the desperate nature of the mission we have. His sacrifice saved lives on earth. How desperate are we to save lives for eternity? Are you desperate enough to do what it takes to save lives?

2. Saving others is not an option. Why do we view it as such? What can turn the tide so the Church can be effective in the harvest that awaits her?

3. Where is your harvest field? Are there specific people you have been sent to that respond to you and your faith? Are these people white unto harvest?

4. Jesus had a heart for the poor, the lost and the broken-hearted. He came to pay the ultimate price for each of us. How can you tap into the compassion for the lost that He carried?

5. Why do Christians tend to look at education and training as the sum and total of what it takes to prepare to minister? Why do Christians often substitute method for relationship and information for communion?

† MEDITATION †

"You too are called and anointed by the Spirit of the Lord to preach the gospel of hope to the poor…to heal the brokenhearted…to proclaim liberty to the captives…to open the eyes of the blind…to set at liberty those who are oppressed… to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Where can you preach to the poor? Who are the brokenhearted in your sphere of influence? What captives need your proclamation of liberty? Who could gain spiritual eyesight or physical sight through your fasting and prayer? Who needs freedom from bondage in your family or neighborhood? Where do you have a forum to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord? Then do it!

✝ DAY 15 ✝

Humility: The Position of Triumph

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

† Today's Devotion †

I am looking forward to the day when the nightly news programs will be filled with news of the awesome works of God before His coming. Yet the Church can only begin to operate in the power of the Spirit when its members obtain the grace of God in their lives. How do we obtain grace? We humble ourselves. Proverbs 3:34 tells us that God "…gives grace to the humble."

Whenever people come to me and say, "Brother Mahesh, pray for me so I can be humble before God and stay that way," I tell them how David prayed for those who were his enemies, "…I humbled myself with fasting…" (Ps. 35:13). The Hebrew word translated as "myself" in the New King James Bible is *nephesh*, which can be literally translated as "my breathing creature."

The scriptural way to humble yourself before God is by fasting. There are times when you need to tell your soul or your "breathing creature" who is boss. We need to discipline our souls, and one of the ways we do that is by fasting. When we humble ourselves before God, we receive His grace and power.

If we can live in this atmosphere of genuine humility and not get impatient, then in due time God will exalt us.

† QUESTIONS †

1. What does God's "grace" mean to you personally? Have you obtained grace through humbling yourself? Explain.

2. How did Jesus show us His humility? When He humbled Himself to become man, what did Jesus give up? What would you give up to humble yourself?

3. Why is fasting a means to humility before the Lord? Are there other ways to gain humility? How do you know if you have attained it?

4. How difficult is it for you to discipline yourself physically? Emotionally? Spiritually? What disciplines come easily to you? What are more difficult? Does fasting affect all three of these areas? How?

5. What role does discipline play in our becoming humble? Define the following words through your own experience: discipline, submission, humility, exaltation.

✝ MEDITATION ✝

*"You can **choose** to live a life of continual humility before God. Constantly pray to the Lord Jesus, 'Lord, I want to remain humble. I choose to humble myself before You. It is fun to let the Lord exalt and anoint you for His work. But you must never grasp for it. Humble yourself, and the Lord will lift you up."*

How do humility and patience walk hand in hand? Does patience come easily to you? In what specific areas is it more difficult for you to maintain patience? How long must patience be required? Is there a limit to patience's endurance? Pray for patience today and ask the Lord to test your patience so that you might grow in its grace.

✝ DAY 16 ✝

Many Christians Feel Almost Helpless

ONE MAN OF YOU SHALL CHASE A THOUSAND, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS HE WHO FIGHTS FOR YOU, AS HE PROMISED YOU (JOSHUA 23:10).

† Today's Devotion †

Some diseases, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS virus, and almost all forms of mental illness, carry such a paralyzing weight of fear and invincibility that many Christians feel almost helpless in their efforts to overcome them through prayer. But we also know from the Scriptures that even these must bow their knee to the authority of the risen Lord.

I give much credit for the healings in my ministry to the lifestyle of prayer and fasting the Lord gave me. In my weakness, God reveals His strength. I think those times helped "move me out of the way" so God could reveal His glory without hindrance from my flesh. The Lord laid a foundation and was then able to cleanse me in such a way that I could hear more clearly what He was saying and cooperate with Him.

The key to defeating dark strongholds is twofold. First we must tap the *power* of the Spirit through the combination of prayer and fasting; and second, we will overcome in the largest battles in this generation only when we pray and fast *together* and unleash the incredible power of the Body of Christ on its knees.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Have you ever felt paralyzed by the fear of some disease or situation? Have you experienced or do you know someone who has had a disease bow to the authority of the Lord?

2. Mahesh Chavda believes that his lifestyle of prayer and fasting was foundational to the number of healings he saw through his ministry. How do you explain this? Is this a formula or a position of faith? Is it a prerequisite or a place of submission? Why is it a heart attitude and not a methodology?

3. How does God reveal His strength when we are weak? How do you get in the way of God? Today, where do you need the Lord to "move you out of the way" so that He can reveal His glory without any hindrance from your flesh? How does His cleansing take place?

4. Defeating dark strongholds may seem overwhelming to some of us. Why should it be a normal part of our ministry? How do prayer and fasting combined deal with demonic strongholds?

5. What is the difference between when we fast and pray alone versus when we do these together with other believers? How does this multiply the power of the Spirit?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"An unavoidable part of the works of Jesus begins with prayer and fasting because these were the first works of Jesus in His mission to destroy the works of the enemy."

Why is it so significant that Jesus started His ministry by prayer and fasting? Why do many of us use them as a last resort instead of the first preparatory measure? Instead of fasting for a specific need, plan your next fast as a time where you prepare for the future ministry God is planning for you.

✝ DAY 17 ✝

The Difference Between Victory and Triumph

AND JEHOSHAPHAT FEARED, AND SET HIMSELF TO SEEK THE LORD, AND PROCLAIMED A FAST THROUGHOUT ALL JUDAH. SO JUDAH GATHERED TOGETHER TO ASK HELP FROM THE LORD; AND FROM ALL THE CITIES OF JUDAH THEY CAME TO SEEK THE LORD (2 CHRONICLES 20:3).

† Today's Devotion †

When God's people are attuned to the heart of God, then He will warn and equip us long before a device or attack of the enemy surfaces to threaten us. The triumph of King Jehoshaphat and Judah occurred when two major enemies and other forces came in overwhelming numbers to conquer Judah.

Read Second Chronicles 20:3-7, 10-15, 17-25. Then note a few of the important phrases: "Are you not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations…" and "…we have no power against this great multitude…nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." and "Do not be afraid…for the battle is not yours, but God's" and "Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established…"

What was the first thing King Jehoshaphat did when the crisis arrived? He called a fast so the entire nation could bow before the Lord's face and pray, "Lord, we humble ourselves." When we take a low position, we open the door for God to take the high position.

When we humble ourselves before God, our first desire must be *for Him*. We should humble ourselves to seek His face, not merely His hand.

✝ QUESTIONS ✝

1. Have you ever been warned *before* an attack of the enemy, as Jehoshaphat was? In Israel's case, what would the difference have been if they had had a mere "victory"? What made things go beyond victory into triumph?

2. Look at the phrases from the Second Chronicles notes above. Make a comparison of their significance to King Jehoshaphat and Judah, and their significance in your life today.

3. Document the things Jehoshaphat said (in 2 Chronicles 20) after the fast about 1) the sovereignty of God, 2) the power of God, 3) the history of God, 4) the deliverance of God, 5) the weakness of the people, 6) the focus on God alone.

4. Have you seen the following equation work in your life? Low us=high Him. Why does this equation work to position us for more of God?

5. Why is seeking the Lord first and foremost difficult when situations or relationships are weighing so heavily upon us? Do thoughts or emotions plague us more? How can we see the list of problems grow dim when we focus on God more than on the answer to our prayer?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

*"There is a place **beyond victory** called **triumph**. Victory is being able to defeat your enemies. But triumph goes far beyond mere victory. When you triumph, you come out of the battle with **more than you had before!** God wants to give you **more**."*

What mind-set do you have…victory or triumph? How can you gain a mind-set that will receive the triumph God wants to offer you? Pray today for the mind-set to gain triumph.

† DAY 18 †

Position Yourself for More

. . . THE HAND OF OUR GOD IS UPON ALL THOSE FOR GOOD WHO SEEK HIM, BUT HIS POWER AND HIS WRATH ARE AGAINST ALL THOSE WHO FORSAKE HIM (EZRA 8:22).

Today's Devotion

We need to position ourselves for more. There is a place beyond victory called triumph. Victory is being able to defeat your enemies. But triumph goes far beyond mere victory. When you triumph, you come out of the battle with more than you had before!

First we need to learn how to stand together in times of trouble and crisis. Unfortunately, people who are going through painful situations find more sympathy out in the world than in the Body of Christ! I think it is because we have trained ourselves to act more like sharks than believers when we see someone who is wounded, bleeding, and floundering in the waters of adversity or failure.

The Lord will not tolerate this. We are to support each other in grace and mercy because we are yoked together in Christ. The fasting family of God wants to see every individual family in its body blessed. If one is affected, we are all affected, so it behooves us to say together, "Lord, we seek Your face."

The prophet Ezra faced a situation that put a large number of people at risk as he led a group of Levite families through very dangerous territory without an armed escort. Ezra first proclaimed a fast so that the people were in position to receive more.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Are you in a position to receive triumph and not just victory? What is needed for your heart and mind and spirit to get into that position?

2. Why do you think Christians often provide so little sympathy for those who are hurting? Why do you think the world offers compassion so freely? Do you? How can we get rid of jealousy and being judgmental so we can position ourselves for triumph?

3. How do you feel when others in the Body of Christ gain more blessings than you? Are you genuinely glad the Lord has blessed them, or do you envious thoughts come into your head and heart? What is the means by which Christians can truly be blessed when others have more than they do?

4. How do you feel when Christians you know find themselves in tragedy or despair? Are you merely grateful it didn't happen to you? Do you ever entertain thoughts that they might have deserved it because of some sin you noticed? How can we build compassion for hurting Christians so that we truly lift up each other in spiritual and practical ways? How does this affect our position to receive more from the Lord?

5. Ezra's words about the "hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him…" were a statement of faith, not just idle talk. Have you caught yourself just giving lip service to a statement of praise during a crisis or trial and not backing it up with prayer, fasting, and intercession? How can we be more determined to speak statements of faith that reflect our lives?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"Some of us fight depression; others constantly battle evil tempers and fits of rage. Nearly every parent I've ever talked with has admitted there have been times when they grew angry with their children unfairly. They always 'kick themselves' later and say, 'Why did I do that?' We need to echo the prayers of King Jehoshaphat in Second Chronicles and say to the Lord, 'Before this enemy I have no might. I humble myself; give me victory.'"

Take time today to confess what is plaguing you and pray Jehoshaphat's prayer.

✝ DAY 19 ✝

Are You a Casualty in the Ministry?

AND LET US NOT GROW WEARY WHILE DOING GOOD, FOR IN DUE SEASON WE SHALL REAP IF WE DO NOT LOSE HEART. THEREFORE, AS WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD TO ALL, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH (GALATIANS 6:9-10).

† Today's Devotion †

There are two kinds of people: those who are living completely absorbed in the stress and the harried nature of our time; and those who are seeing that scene from a distance and crying out, "My God, I don't want to be a part of that."

I believe that many of the casualties we see in the ministry are caused when people who have received the fullness of the Spirit *are released into public ministry without the* ***power*** *of the Spirit*. We *all* need a time of seasoning when the Lord teaches us and perfects us before we go out to help others. If you go out "half-baked" in the things of God, you can become a casualty.

We need to get desperate for God and stay desperate. And the more He touches you, the more that should make you hungry.

We have become very lazy in this culture about gathering with the people of God and listening to the Word of God. There is a robe of apathy and arrogance on us that is expressed with excuses. Don't become weary in well-doing.

Enjoy the presence of the Lord and reach out to Him. Put down everything that would hinder you and allow your hunger to cry out.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Do you resemble the two kinds of people described above…those absorbed by stress and those who watch from a distance? Perhaps you are closer to one than the other. Why are both of these descriptive of the choices we make? How can they push us into becoming a casualty of ministry?

2. Why do many people receive the infilling of the Spirit and not the power? Why do Christians often enter the ministry without the power of the Spirit? What fruit of the Spirit does it take to be in a time of seasoning, teaching, and perfecting?

3. Are you desperate for the living God? Has there been a time when you were more desperate than you are today? How can you stir up your inner spirit to become more desperate than you are now?

4. Have you become spiritually lazy in any way? Do you find lethargy or apathy waiting at the door of your heart on particular issues in your life? How can you combat these?

5. What does it mean to "grow weary in well-doing"? Is there a never-ending supply of spiritual and physical energy for those who follow the Lord? Why or why not? From where should our energy flow? According to the verse, who should receive the "well-doing" the most? Why?

† MEDITATION †

"We all need a time of seasoning…"

Describe where you are in the process of seasoning? What is God currently teaching you? How is He perfecting you at this time of your life? How are you maturing? How does seasoning create perfection and power?

✝ DAY 20 ✝

Failure Because of Unbelief

BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR HE WHO COMES TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM (HEBREWS 11:6).

† Today's Devotion †

Certain victories will not be achieved in our lives or in the lives of others unless we combine our prayer with fasting. Fasting is one of the greatest weapons that God has given to His end-time army!

One of the major sins of the Church has been the sin of unbelief. Doubt and unbelief are the opposite of faith. God's Word warns us that "without faith, it is absolutely impossible to please God," but you would never know we believed it judging from our actions.

We need faith mixed with our works because ultimately, everything in this world and in the world to come is measured by *fruit*. What have we done to back up our talk of following Jesus and doing His works? Where is the good fruit from our tree?

Much of the Church has lumbered along to fulfill the great commission personally delivered into its care by Jesus Christ. We have had a measure of success, but nowhere close to the success we should have had.

The reality is that the Church has seemingly been *powerless* to bring the family of man into victory and freedom, *even though we have been given the name and authority of the Son of God for our use.*

✝ QUESTIONS ✝

1. Do you see fasting as one of the greatest weapons that God has given us? Have you experienced the power behind fasting? Do you know Christians who fast regularly? Do they have a measure of faith in proportion to their submission to fasting?

2. Why is unbelief so prevalent in the Church? What makes unbelief so much easier to choose than faith in some instances? How do we need to bring our actions into alignment with what we say we believe?

3. How does unbelief come into your life? Are there areas where you are more vulnerable to it?

4. How strong is your faith? What fruit have you borne that measures your faith output?

5. Is a small measure of success really success at all? Why or why not? Do you have a favorite mother or father of the Church whose life produced fruit through prayer and fasting? What do you see in his or her life that you would like to make your own?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"God wants to see His Church rise up as a whole, complete Body in all its resplendent glory as His spotless Bride. The world will never be the same!"

Take some time to meditate on how you can make a difference in helping the Church become complete and glorious.

✝ DAY 21 ✝

Focus on Jesus

BUT AS FOR YOU, YOU MEANT EVIL AGAINST ME; BUT GOD MEANT IT FOR GOOD, IN ORDER TO BRING IT ABOUT AS IT IS THIS DAY, TO SAVE MANY PEOPLE ALIVE (GENESIS 50:20).

† Today's Devotion †

If you really believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and that He is the only begotten Son of God, then you should *model your life and ministry after Him*. If you dare to do this, then God will dare to fulfill another promise from Jesus: "*and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father*" (John 14:12b).

"This gospel" was always accompanied by mighty miracles and healings. The Church is called and anointed to proclaim *this gospel* to all the nations with signs and wonders confirming the Word.

At times I have felt like I was engaged in intense hand-to-hand combat, but God gave us a wonderful harvest anyway. Yet despite all those early successes, the Lord told me, "You haven't seen *anything* yet!"

The Church is called to fill every vacuum created by totalitarian governments and godless philosophies with the gospel proclamation confirmed with signs, wonders, and miracles. There is no way you and I can fulfill our divine call without the *power* of God.

The Lord is preparing you to actively participate in this great harvest! Your local church is also preordained to be *actively involved* in this end-time revival and gospel proclamation. Yet you still have the power to say yes or no to Him.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Since Jesus was perfect, do you sometimes shy away from Him as your model, thinking that you can't ever achieve perfection? Should we follow other Christians' examples or just Jesus? Why should our primary source of faith be Christ alone?

2. If we follow Jesus' example, we should see signs and wonders confirming the message we speak. Why do we not see more miracles? How would healings and miracles transform our ministry?

3. Have you ever felt that you were in intense hand-to-hand combat with the enemy? What did you do? Did God bless you through the experience? If so, in what way?

4. Do you see a spiritual vacuum anywhere around you…at home, in your neighborhood, in committee work, in your place of employment? How will you fast and pray for this spiritual vacuum? For what are you believing?

5. Do you believe Mahesh Chavda's statement that the "Lord is preparing you to actively participate in this great harvest"? What does your preparation look like to date? What do you think it might look like in the immediate future?

† MEDITATION †

"Our Father God, our Shepherd Savior, is interested in children and sheep for eternity. It is our responsibility before God to ***plant converts in churches*** *so they will stand and prosper in the faith as they are grounded in God's Word and discipled in the way of holiness."*

Have you helped someone come to the saving knowledge of Christ? Have you helped anyone get planted in a church so they could receive discipleship and be planted firmly with other believers? Take time to pray for your church's new converts and any others on your heart.

✝ DAY 22 ✝

Back to Base One

HOWEVER, THIS KIND DOES NOT GO OUT EXCEPT BY PRAYER AND FASTING (MATTHEW 17:21).

† Today's Devotion †

One of the things God is doing to prepare us to participate in the end-time revival is this: *There is no substitute for prayer and fasting* if we really want to bring the victory of Christ into the lives of our families, our churches, and our nation!

It is likely that at some point in your life and ministry, you have been stopped cold or greatly hindered by obstructions. That thing, whatever it is—be it a demon power, unforgiveness, or a clinging sin that keeps cropping up again and again—will not budge until you combine your prayers with fasting. Fasting boosts the intensity and effectiveness of your prayer at least tenfold, and often a hundredfold!

The Lord wants us to be released in the *power* of the Spirit, but that can come only as we continually say yes to the wooing of God's Spirit—even when it makes us feel very uncomfortable. It is through this process that God removes doubt and unbelief from our hearts through the cleansing flow of His convicting Spirit and healing presence. There are simply no shortcuts to His presence; and the surest path to holiness, purity, and power is found in the powerhouse combination of prayer with fasting.

† QUESTIONS †

1. If you believe God is preparing us for end-time revival, why do you think the preparation involves prayer and fasting? What results do you think will occur if the Church bends its knee and stomach to God's purpose?

2. Have you ever found an obstruction or block in your life? What was it? Where do you think it came from? Has any obstruction come time after time to form a pattern of repeated frustration or discouragement? Think about how fasting can boost the ability to overcome the obstruction.

3. How does fasting boost the intensity of prayer? How does it boost the effectiveness of prayer? How does the wooing of the Spirit enter into our times of prayer and fasting?

4. Why does the Spirit's wooing often feel uncomfortable to us? How does the process of the Spirit's call help remove doubt and unbelief from our hearts? How does the Spirit bring conviction to you?

5. Have you ever tried to make a shortcut to God's presence in order to tuck Him into your busy schedule? Do you find that you can't hurry God? How important are holiness, purity, and power to you?

† MEDITATION †

"You are called to be a part of a revival, and the first way you can participate is through prayer and fasting. Start interceding for the lost today. Go on a fast once a week and intercede for your nation, praying, 'Lord, ***give us revival****.'"*

Take out your day planner or calendar and block off one day a week for the next three months to intercede for the nation. Be sure to be realistic about the day you pick and the way in which you will be able to fulfill your goal.

† DAY 23 †

Arrows of Pain, Arrows of Triumph

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the

OIL OF JOY FOR MOURNING, THE GARMENT OF PRAISE FOR THE SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS; THAT THEY MAY BE CALLED TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE PLANTING OF THE LORD, THAT HE MAY BE GLORIFIED." AND THEY SHALL REBUILD THE OLD RUINS, THEY SHALL RAISE UP THE FORMER DESOLATIONS, AND THEY SHALL REPAIR THE RUINED CITIES, THE DESOLATIONS OF MANY GENERATIONS. STRANGERS SHALL STAND AND FEED YOUR FLOCKS, AND THE SONS OF THE FOREIGNER SHALL BE YOUR PLOWMEN AND YOUR VINEDRESSERS. BUT YOU SHALL BE NAMED THE PRIESTS OF THE LORD, THEY SHALL CALL YOU THE SERVANTS OF OUR GOD. YOU SHALL EAT THE RICHES OF THE GENTILES, AND IN THEIR GLORY YOU SHALL BOAST (ISAIAH 61:1-6).

† Today's Devotion †

There is a cost that comes with the call and the anointing of God. When we finally acknowledge that our lives are not our own and that we have been bought with a price, then everything changes. We begin to feel the urgency of God moving us inexorably to our particular part of the harvest fields.

When the passion of God flows so strongly to the lost and hurting, His servants must sometimes make difficult decisions and take arrows to the heart to obey their Lord. There might be a conflict of duty to man versus duty to God.

God is taking all of us through journeys that will be hard at times, that will force us to make some difficult choices revolving around the question, "Whom do you love more?"

The pain of making tough decisions can be troubling. *All it takes is one word from the Lord to drive away every tear and every hurt in your heart.*

Jesus is ready to lead us to total and instant victory, but we must first learn the two prerequisites of victory in every battle:

1. We must cast away all sin and uncleanness in our lives through His blood.

2. We must obey every command and follow each strategy the Lord gives us without deviation or hesitation through fear.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Isaiah 61:1-6 offers a beautiful job description for us, but also shows us the results of fulfilling our job description. List the results that you see written in this passage. Do you see triumph here? Do you see any pain that could be involved?

2. Why does the call and anointing of God come at a cost? What price did Jesus pay for you? What price are you willing to pay for His purpose?

3. What arrows have you taken to your heart so that you might obey the Lord? Have any of them "paid off" by benefiting you? Have you felt the words of Jesus drive any pain or sorrow away?

4. Have you ever had a conflict of duty between what someone else needed or requested and what God was asking you to do? Is it difficult to choose, especially if the person's request was a good or godly thing? How do you make difficult choices?

5. Looking at the two prerequisites for every battle, how do these apply to your life? Which is easiest for you? Why? Why is the other more difficult?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"The Bible pictures us as soldiers and warriors in God's army. As a soldier under God's command, you may encounter certain things in your personal life that conflict with God's call on your life. If you give those things to God and obey His call, then He will personally take care of the things you give up to obey His command."

How well do you trust God to take care of your personal life: your relationships, physical needs, possessions, your employment, and your ministry? Confess those areas where you do not trust God and ask for the Holy Spirit to help you face conflicts with His strength.

† DAY 24 †

Rebuilding the Ancient Ruins

FINALLY, MY BRETHREN, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. FOR WE DO NOT WRESTLE AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS AGE, AGAINST SPIRITUAL HOSTS OF WICKEDNESS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES....PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT, BEING

WATCHFUL TO THIS END WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL THE SAINTS (EPHESIANS 6:10-12,18).

† Today's Devotion †

A divine call demands a supernatural change in our values, direction, and life focus. If a person's values are still carnal, then you know he has not been touched by the glory of God.

I didn't have a long heritage in the Church. But most "historical" Christians "inherit" only a form of religion that seems determined to deny the *power* of Christ and His glory. Now *that* is not an inheritance to cherish; it is a disease that needs a cure.

It will cost you if you want to *know God* and see His glory. You will have to sign your own death certificate on the cross of obedience and in daily surrender of your life, your agenda, and your priorities in prayer and fasting. Then God will give you His own righteousness and "new credentials" that have everything to do with His presence and nothing to do with the approval and pleasure of men.

The closer we draw to Him, the more we die. The more we die, the more like Him we become. If you will pay the price to seek His face in prayer with fasting, then you will literally put on *the strength of the Lord* and *the power* of His might!

† QUESTIONS †

1. Do you believe yours is a divine call? Have you seen a change in your values because of the call of God on your life? In what way? Do you see that your life focus has changed and therefore the direction of your life has altered? Describe the changes you see.

2. What is your spiritual heritage? How can heritage be a benefit or a hindrance? Have you experienced an atmosphere where the anointing was not welcome? Why do you think this was so?

3. Knowing God and seeing His glory is costly! What price have you had to pay thus far? What price do you think God may require of you in the future? Is it worth the price to you? How will your priorities and agenda reflect the price God wants you to pay?

4. How has God given you His righteousness? What "new credentials" do you hold? How valuable is God's presence to you? How does His presence diminish the value of man's approval?

5. Why is our death involved in becoming like Jesus? What is supposed to die? How does our death involve prayer and fasting? How do we receive strength and the power of the Lord's might through those things that die within us?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"Too often people who have spent years in an average local church begin to take the glory for granted. Apathy, doubt, and unbelief began to drain away our lives. We can find ourselves stranded in a place where the spirit of religion denies the power thereof."

Have you ever taken God's glory for granted? Have apathy, doubt, and unbelief ever robbed you of spiritual strength? How does the spirit of religion work? How can we combat this in our lives? Take time to ask the Lord to reveal any places where the spirit of religion is stopping you from moving in His grace.

✝ DAY 25 ✝

Eight Arrows of God's Victory

ELISHA HAD BECOME SICK WITH THE ILLNESS OF WHICH HE WOULD DIE. THEN JOASH THE KING OF ISRAEL CAME DOWN TO HIM, AND WEPT OVER HIS FACE, AND SAID, "O MY FATHER, MY FATHER, THE CHARIOTS OF ISRAEL AND THEIR HORSEMEN!" AND ELISHA SAID TO HIM, "TAKE A BOW AND SOME ARROWS"…THEN ELISHA SAID, "SHOOT"; AND HE SHOT. AND HE SAID, "THE ARROW OF THE LORD'S DELIVERANCE AND THE ARROW OF DELIVERANCE FROM SYRIA; FOR YOU MUST STRIKE THE SYRIANS AT APHEK TILL YOU HAVE DESTROYED THEM." THEN HE SAID, "TAKE THE ARROWS.…STRIKE THE GROUND"; SO HE

STRUCK THREE TIMES, AND STOPPED. AND THE MAN OF GOD WAS ANGRY WITH HIM, AND SAID, "YOU SHOULD HAVE STRUCK FIVE OR SIX TIMES; THEN YOU WOULD HAVE STRUCK SYRIA TILL YOU HAD DESTROYED IT! BUT NOW YOU WILL STRIKE SYRIA ONLY THREE TIMES" (2 KINGS 13:14–19).

† Today's Devotion †

If you want to know how to achieve victory in the realm of the Spirit, strike the earth with the following eight "arrows" until total victory is yours:

1. Be full of the Holy Spirit.
2. Choose your battle. Seek God on how to enter aggressive spiritual warfare.
3. Survey the cost and commit to complete victory.
4. Be sober minded. Neither momentary defeats nor successes should cause you to let down your guard.
5. Focus on winning the battle. Do not allow discouragement or distractions to dissipate your commitment to win.
6. Do not let unforeseen obstacles force you to turn back
7. Be thankful. Once the battle is won, thank God for the victory.
8. Be vigilant. Guard the victory.

These eight "arrows" can serve as our quiver of power for victory. Our objectives must always remain clear and uncompromising. Then our faith and God's resources will always supply the strength we need.

God is preparing His Church to pull down the strongholds of supernatural evil resistance that hold humanity in the bondage of sin and disease. We must develop perseverance, tenacity, and prevailing patience if we are to wage successful warfare. We have been given a promise of victory, but God is waiting for us to *strike through* until we possess our enemy's gates.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Why do we tend to pull back in times of conflict, when we should reach out and be aggressive? Have you ever almost tasted victory in an area of your life, only to lose ground right before the final triumph?

2. What is total victory? Have you ever seen partial answers to prayers you have prayed? What do you think it takes for us to achieve total victory?

3. Look at the eight arrows of God's victory. Rate yourself on how well you function in each, how often you use them to do warfare.

4. Mahesh Chavda tells us that "our objectives must always remain clear and uncompromising." What are your objectives? Are you sold out to these objectives? How do your faith and God's resources specifically play into your objectives?

5. What are specific strongholds that bring evil resistance to your life? What can you do about these strongholds? Where can you find help?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"The life of faith and obedience to Christ will bring us arrows of pain as well as arrows of victory. Such is the life of a true soldier in Jesus, but the rewards in this life and in the life to come are beyond measure. Press into Him and ask for grace sufficient for today."

Take time to lay your arrows of pain down before the Lord and let Him give you direction for them. Then take up the arrows of victory and "strike the ground" with them in prayer and fasting until you see a change or an answer.

† DAY 26 †

Prayer Pioneers and the Facts of Fasting

So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God'" (Acts 10:30-31).

† Today's Devotion †

The godly disciplines of prayer and fasting show up in every nook and cranny of God's Word and in the history of the Church. And everywhere you find prayer and fasting, you find victory in the midst of difficulty, the miraculous invading the impossible, and supernatural intervention permanently diverting natural intentions.

Here are some examples:

Esther
Ezra
David
Anna
Cornelius
Paul
Jesus
Polycarp
Tertulian
Martin Luther
John Calvin
John Knox
Charles Finney
Jonathan Edwards
John Wesley
Charles Haddon Spurgeon
David Brainard
Rees Howells
Sadhu Sundar Singh

So fasting has been common among great leaders throughout Church history, and it is required and expected of us by Jesus Christ.

Here is a brief list of the benefits of fasting:

1. You are humbling yourself.

2. You will see life's priorities more clearly.

3. You will see balance return to areas of your life where there is imbalance.
4. Your selfish ambition and pride will begin to be washed away.
5. You will be more sensitive to God's Spirit, and the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit will work more effectively in your life.
6. Your hidden areas of weakness or susceptibility will rise to the surface so that God can deal with them.
7. God will make you more unselfish.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Name an experience you have had or seen where prayer and fasting ushered in victory in the midst of difficulty. Name a time where you have seen that prayer and fasting allowed the miraculous to invade the impossible. Name a time when you saw prayer and fasting bring supernatural intervention in order to permanently divert natural intentions.

2. Look at the Old Testament and New Testament people listed above. Take at least one of these from each Testament and look up the instance(s) of when they fasted or called others to fast with them. Take away at least one principle that can help encourage you during your next fast.

3. Look at the church fathers listed above. Take at least two of these and research how and why they fasted. Note any difficulties they had and the procedure of their fasts. Look at the benefits they received. Jot down any words that might give exhortation to your disciplines of prayer and fasting.

4. Read over the list of benefits from fasting. Which one stands out the most to you? Have you experienced it the most or do you need it the most? Why?

5. How can you tuck the benefits of fasting in your heart so that they will remind you of the eternal gain when you fast and pray?

† MEDITATION †

"We don't fast to earn something; we fast to make a connection with our supernatural God. We are cleaning out the 'pipe' that connects us to the anointing of God. It becomes corroded through the normal course of living in a fallen world, and the best way to cleanse our spiritual systems from the corrosion of sin and the world is through prayer and fasting."

Do you fast to earn something, or do you see fasting as a way to commune with God on a greater level? How does fasting help clear your pipes out to be able to hear God and experience His presence? Make an appointment with God to experience His presence. Don't take a prayer list with you to this appointment. Just fast, praise, pray, and listen!

† DAY 27 †

God Wants to Take Away Our Ignorance About Fasting

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick (Matthew 8:16).

† Today's Devotion †

Legalism and a certain ignorance of the Scriptures have cloaked the biblical discipline of fasting in obscurity for most Christians. God wants to strip away the mystery and shed His light on this tool for triumph. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions:

How Long Is Long Enough?

Fast one day a week if you can and let the Lord deal with the areas of your soul that are hindering you from fulfilling your destiny in Him.

Why Do I Feel So Bad When Fasting Is So Good?

Nearly everyone experiences certain unpleasant side effects when beginning a fast. Even secular health authorities say that a one-day fast each week is very healthy for the human body—but it is also uncomfortable at times.

Will Fasting Cure Anything?

Fasting is not a cure-all; it is a weapon. It *will* bring you into victory in the Spirit realm, but it does not mean you can fast and *still go on sinning!*

What If I Break My Fast in a Moment of Weakness?

Weakness is a natural part of the fasting discipline. In fact, that is the exact place we want our body and flesh to be. If you fail, don't kick yourself too hard. God is pleased with your heart's desire for more of Him.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Have you seen legalism or certain ignorance of the Scriptures keep people from fasting? Why can this occur? How can these be removed so the Body of Christ can embrace the discipline and move into triumph?

2 What kinds of fasts have you done? Have you found certain types of fasts to be more difficult? Do you fast regularly? Why is this of benefit to you?

3. Have you experienced side effects of fasting? If so, what have they been? Have they discouraged you into quitting? How does faith come to play when you experience the side effects of fasting?

4. Have you always combined repentance with your fasting? Have you experienced the power of God to forgive during a fast? What were the results?

5. Have you ever broken a fast during a moment of weakness? What did you do? Did you go right back on the fast? How can you help yourself from breaking fasts in the future?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"Many people think that if they don't fast 40 days like Jesus, then they just 'aren't spiritual.' If that is the case, then there have been very few so-called 'spiritual' people in the Kingdom since the days that Jesus walked the earth. Other people only think of a 'total fast' when you mention fasting. In reality, this kind of fast is the rarest of all fasts, even in the Bible!"

Have you had misconceptions about fasting that have kept you from utilizing this great weapon? How can you help dispel the myths others may also have of the process of fasting?

✝ DAY 28 ✝

Different Types of Fasts

GO, GATHER ALL THE JEWS WHO ARE PRESENT IN SHUSHAN, AND FAST FOR ME; NEITHER EAT NOR DRINK FOR THREE DAYS, NIGHT OR DAY. MY MAIDS AND I WILL FAST LIKEWISE. AND SO I WILL GO TO THE KING, WHICH IS AGAINST THE LAW; AND IF I PERISH, I PERISH! (ESTHER 4:16)

Today's Devotion

Most people are amazed to learn how many different kinds of fasts there are in the Bible and how many unique variations God has given Christian people in the modern era to accomplish the same thing! This knowledge can remove much of the mystery and frustration so many feel about the topic and discipline of fasting.

1. The *complete fast* refers to a total fast in which you eat nothing and drink nothing. The maximum time for this kind of fast is three days and nights. (See Ezra 8:21; 10:6; and Esther 4:16.) The complete fast is a fast of desperation, a fast of all-out hunger and urgency, crying out for the presence of God to bring deliverance and breakthrough.

2. The *normal fast*, which Jesus observed in the wilderness, involves total abstention from food, but regular intake of water.

3. The *Daniel fast* or partial fast is what I recommend if you have never fasted before…He ate "no pleasant meat" but ate vegetables and drank water. God will honor this type of fast just as much as He will honor a total fast or complete fast (see Dan. 10:2-3).

4. The *group fast* or *corporate fast* is the kind of fast that turned God's wrath away from the wicked city of Nineveh in Jonah's day.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Which of the four types of fasts listed above have you observed? What are the results that you can see from each one?

2. Why is the complete fast one of desperation and urgency? How does God use this fast to humble us and allow our weakness to become His strength?

3. How does a normal fast help us physically? Emotionally? Mentally? Spiritually?

4. How does a Daniel fast help those with physical issues accomplish a fast? Why would God honor it in the same way as a complete or total fast?

5. What power does a corporate fast have? Why is this true? Take time to look up some corporate fasts in the Old Testament (Ezra, Esther, Jehoshaphat, etc.). Can you call a corporate fast with those in your area of influence for some united effort on a challenge or problem?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"In First Kings 17, you will find that Elijah went on a partial fast of cakes made of meal and oil. John the Baptist was especially creative in his partial fast. He ate only locusts and honey, according to Matthew 3:4."

What were the results of Elijah's fast? What were the results of John the Baptist's fast? Are these results possible for you as well? Plan your next fast by asking the Lord to tell you what kind and for what reason you are to fast.

✝ DAY 29 ✝

Dos and Don'ts in Fasting

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own (1 Corinthians 6:19)?

† Today's Devotion †

Here is some fasting information: When you are drinking fruit juices, avoid the acidic juices like orange juice or grapefruit juice because they can overwhelm your system. Apple juice is good, but be careful not to overload your system with sugar. That is why you should dilute juices. Your body will appreciate even that little bit of nourishment. Eliminate meats and desserts, and at times only eat fruits and nuts and vegetables.

If you have many needs in your family or church, it may be necessary to fast and pray for them all at once. Write down the list of concerns or needs and offer them to the Lord in prayer.

There are times and seasons when you will feel weak during a fast, and it is very important that you respect your body during the fast. Don't abuse your body; respect it. If you feel physically weak after several days of fasting, sit down and rest a little. When we have a right attitude toward our bodies, they will be real servants to us and to the Lord.

Yes, one of the most important things we do during the fast is to tell our body "who is boss." But don't be cruel to your body. Respect it, and it will serve you and the Lord's purposes well.

† QUESTIONS †

1. The author mentions some foods to avoid during a fast. What are some other precautions that we should take to help and respect our bodies during a fast?

2. What are other things besides food that we can abstain from on a fast? What are some ideas you or your family can choose to observe together in order to pray for a certain issue?

3. During a fast, how should we spend our time? Should we increase our times of prayer? How can we accomplish this in a busy schedule?

4. How do you stay focused during a fast? Do you use prayer lists during a fast? Do you list Scriptures that pertain to the area of focus for your fast? What other tools do you use to keep your main goal in front of you?

5. How well are you able to tell your body "who is boss" during a fast? Is your body a servant? Does this come easily or is it difficult? How do you respect your body during a fast?

† MEDITATION †

"There is a place where you're not only fasting, but you become the fast. You almost become one with the fast. At other times the Lord will give His own theme for the fast. One time it might be repentance, and another time it might be evangelism."

Have you experienced becoming "one with the fast"? What does this mean to you? Have you experienced themes for a fast you have had? If so, what were they? How can you determine what theme your fast is to have?

✝ DAY 30 ✝

Fasting…From Start to Finish

THE SECRET THINGS BELONG TO THE LORD OUR GOD, BUT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE REVEALED BELONG TO US AND TO OUR CHILDREN FOREVER… (DEUTERONOMY 29:29).

† Today's Devotion †

The discipline of fasting is very flexible, focused on intimacy with God, not some shallow performance-driven version of "putting in your time" with God.

Start in moderation. Don't begin with a 21-day fast or a 40-day fast. It is just as scriptural for you to go on a 1-day fast.

If you have a medical problem, consult your physician before going on a fast. In general, everyone can go one day without food while drinking water or fruit and vegetable juices.

The early symptoms most people experience during the first three days are headaches, nausea, dizziness, and a stiff neck. Once you press through the three-day barrier, you will begin to feel very good! By the fourth or fifth day, you come into a realm of rest.

Give some disciplined time to Bible reading and prayer during the fast, because the devil will try to attack you in the mental realm with a form of depression or heaviness. Just take authority over the evil spirit that is attacking you.

Exercise wisdom when you break your fast. This is especially important if you are breaking a fast of seven or more days. The real art to fasting with wisdom is to know how to *come into* the fast and how to *break* a fast.

† QUESTIONS †

1. The author encourages us to understand that flexibility is a part of fasting. Does this release you from preconceived legalistic ideas about the way you should fast? Where are you currently in regard to fasting? A beginner, a semi-regular faster, a regular faster? What do you think is your "program for success" in order to increase the power of fasting in your life?

2. How can we avoid fasting just to "put in our time with God"? How can we be sure we are fasting for the right reasons and stay focused on them during the fast?

3. How does God give you the discipline to answer His call to fast? What does this mean specifically to you? How can you find a way for your body and spirit, in whatever condition they are presently, to go on a fast?

4. Have you experienced the three-day barrier? Have you seen what Mahesh Chavda says takes place on days four and five? Have you experienced satanic resistance during a fast? If so, how did you overcome it?

5. How do you break fasts? Why do you need to learn the art of breaking a fast as much as starting one? What dos and don'ts should you keep in mind?

† MEDITATION †

"I'm going to give you a truth that's going to release you: ***You are not God****. I know it sounds simple and obvious, but if you are careful to remember this, then it will help you by reminding* ***you not to take on the responsibilities of God****. There are certain things I don't understand. For instance, I don't know why everyone does not get healed when we pray the prayer of faith in Jesus' name, but I have found peace in the truth revealed in Deuteronomy 29:29."*

Why is it important to not take on God's responsibilities when you fast and pray? How does this put your weakness into perspective and the truth of His power into your life? Take time to meditate on who God is and allow God to take from you the responsibilities that should be on His shoulders.

✝ DAY 31 ✝

Corporate Prayer and End-Time Revival

AND THE PRAYER OF FAITH WILL SAVE THE SICK, AND THE LORD WILL RAISE HIM UP. AND IF HE HAS COMMITTED SINS, HE WILL BE FORGIVEN. CONFESS YOUR TRESPASSES TO ONE ANOTHER, AND PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER, THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED. THE EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH (JAMES 5:15-16).

† Today's Devotion †

The severe weather patterns we have seen wreaking havoc across the globe over the last five years or so have also given us prophetic insight into the changes taking place in the heavenly realm.

The Lord wants to commend all who have been strong and continued to exercise faith in the midst of storms. In past years, intercessors who have obeyed the call to prayer have determined not to back off from the fight. This band of prayer warriors is pressing through much opposition and is taking back our divine inheritance from the enemy. Like so many recruits in the armed forces of our nation who thought they were joining the army to "see the world," perhaps many of us just joined up with Jesus to get a ticket out of hell. But we had unknowingly signed on the dotted line as an enlistee in a *holy army*!

The Lord is opening our eyes to the simple truth that prayer is where everything begins and ends in the realm of the Spirit. Prayer is the true genetic code of the Church. We have received other mutant genes that have caused us to evolve away from God's true design for His Body. *Nothing that God is going to do will happen without prayer.*

† QUESTIONS †

1. Are you one of those commended by the Lord because you have continued to exercise faith in the midst of storms? When storms come, where do you go? What position do you take? What strategy do you follow?

2. When a spiritual fight ensues, why is it tempting to back off from the fight and let it pass? Why is obedience at the core of persistence and determination? How does our obedience to the call to pray make a difference just because we "show up"?

3. What is your position in God's holy army? Why does each soldier, no matter the rank, need prayer as part of his or her assignment? How is prayer as important as rifles are to a combat troop?

4. The author tells us that "everything begins and ends in the realm of the Spirit." What does this mean? How do you know this to be true? Mahesh Chavda also says that "prayer is the true genetic code of the Church." What does this mean? How have you evolved from this genetic coding? Have you remained true? Are you a hybrid? Or have you mutated away from the original design God has for you in intercession?

5. How much time should a local church spend in prayer and intercession? Should these activities be delegated to a group who are called to do it? Should the whole church be involved? To what extent?

† MEDITATION †

"I've heard people say that they were called to preach, to lay hands on the sick, to evangelize, and so forth, but they would quickly add, 'But I'm not called to intercession.' The truth is that we should not be ministering to others if we have not spent time communing with and receiving from the One who ordains the anointing for all ministry."

How dependent is your ministry to others on your communion with the Lord? Does intercession have a proper place in your daily calendar?

✝ DAY 32 ✝

The Power of the Symphony of Harmonious Prayer

AGAIN I TELL YOU, IF TWO OF YOU ON EARTH AGREE (HARMONIZE TOGETHER, MAKE A SYMPHONY TOGETHER) ABOUT WHATEVER [ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING] THEY MAY ASK, IT WILL COME TO PASS AND BE DONE FOR THEM BY MY FATHER IN HEAVEN (MATTHEW 18:19 AMP).

† Today's Devotion †

Jesus said that if two of us will harmonize together as touching any thing, it shall be done for us! God is calling the Church today to corporate prayer and intimate communion with Him. He will know us because we have known Him in the place of prayer (see Matt. 25:23). The Lord has given us a powerful tool in the Spirit for the work of prayer: prayer languages. As we move ahead in corporate prayer, the Spirit will give us new and powerful tongues that will leave a tremendous spiritual deposit in our lives and change the destiny of nations. As a few good men stand in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, He will raise up a standard like a flood against the enemy.

The enemy hates prayer, particularly corporate prayer, because he knows that when two or more will come in agreement with the Holy Spirit, the devil will lose every time (see Matt. 18:19). Satan's main strategy is to divide and conquer.

God has intended for us to be involved with a corporate community, harmonizing together in a lifestyle of corporate communion and prayer. I believe that those who don't respond to this call are going to miss something crucial in our generation.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Consider Matthew 25:23 that tells us that the Lord will know us because we have known Him in the place of prayer. How does the realization of this affect your determination to pray?

2. Do you use the powerful tool the Lord has given us for the work of prayer—prayer languages? How often do you use it? If you do not have a language, find someone who will pray for you to receive this great gift. How does the Spirit use our prayer language to bring our wills into line with God's will?

3. Think about the following equation: multiple pray-ers=enemy weakening. What does this mean to you? Think about this equation: a few intercessors+the Holy Spirit=standard raised against the enemy. How does this work? Whom might it affect?

4. When you are hurting, do you find it tempting to isolate yourself and "lick your wounds"? Why is this dangerous? How does satan divide and conquer us? Why does he hate corporate prayer?

5. What does corporate prayer do for those who participate? What does it do in the spirit realm? How does united prayer make a difference in current events? How does it bring hope for a generation?

† MEDITATION †

"God is now watering the seeds of revival and raising up new watchmen to reap a new harvest through prayer. The Lord's breath is blowing, causing corporate prayer to spring forth across the earth."

Consider the words of Mahesh Chavda and their impact on your world. Are there seeds of revival around you? Are you one of the new watchmen? Do you know people who are watchmen? How will these watchmen reap a harvest through prayer? Why does the Lord desire corporate prayer to spring forth? Pray today for the Lord to awaken watchmen in your generation.

✝ DAY 33 ✝

Persistent Prayer and God's Favor

BUT SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED TO YOU (MATTHEW 6:33).

Today's Devotion

In Luke 18:1-8, the widow demonstrates the power of persistent, insistent, and focused prayer. The persistent widow came to the unrighteous judge, pleading with him day after day until he gave her what she wanted. The One we are coming to is the *righteous Judge*. How much more will He give His favor to those who are persistent in prayer?

Jesus asked an amazing question related to persistence in prayer: "*When the Son of Man comes, will He* ***really*** *find* ***faith*** *on the earth*" (Luke 18:8)? In other words, Jesus is saying that your faith is expressed by your prayer life.

I believe the Lord has sovereignly seen His people among the nations groping in the darkness, seeking the light. Now He has decided to take things in His own mighty hands. The Lord reaches certain times where He says, "Enough! I'll have mercy!" Just as He parted the Red Sea for the enslaved people of God to bring them up from Egypt, He is parting our "Red Sea" today to deliver us from the pursuit of the enemy.

There isn't one historical revival that was not ushered in by intercessors gathering in prayer to tarry before the living God. These intercessors refused to let the standard fall to the ground—no matter how much they had to sacrifice.

† QUESTIONS †

1. What is the power of persistent prayer? What is insistent prayer? What is prayer that is focused specifically? Define these according to your experiences.

2. How do you know that God is a righteous Judge? Have you experienced His judgment? Have you experienced His favor? How would you explain to an unbeliever how God is the righteous Judge?

3. How are faith and prayer intertwined? Can you have great faith and not be a great prayer warrior? Why or why not?

4. What signs do you see that are evident that the nations are groping in darkness? What "Red Sea" is the Lord parting for us in our nation? In your city? In your personal life?

5. Why is revival dependent upon intercession? What does "to tarry in prayer" mean? Do you tarry in prayer? What effect does this kind of prayer have?

† MEDITATION †

*"The Lord is saying adjusting your priorities. He is declaring, '**It is time to seek Me!**' (see Matt. 6:33) Respond to the call of God and make room in your life for personal intercession and corporate prayer."*

Think about how you view your ministry, gifts, finances, relationships and time. What priorities need to change so that you can respond to the call of God to participate in corporate prayer?

✝ DAY 34 ✝

It's Time to Take Back the Wall!

EVEN THEM I WILL BRING TO MY HOLY MOUNTAIN, AND MAKE THEM JOYFUL IN MY HOUSE OF PRAYER. THEIR BURNT OFFERINGS AND THEIR SACRIFICES WILL BE ACCEPTED ON MY ALTAR; FOR MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS (ISAIAH 56:7).

† Today's Devotion †

The Lord's house is the house of prayer. His "address" is prayer (see Matt. 21:13; Isa. 56:7). If you want to be with Him, then you must meet Him at His house, the place of corporate prayer.

God is calling the Church to get into step with Him, to harmonize in prayer, and to come into total agreement with His purposes. The Lord's new word on corporate prayer has everything to do with being involved in Spirit-led submitted prayer. Our task is to *harmonize* in prayer and worship in God's presence, offering ourselves to Him in love and adoration; while making ourselves available to stand in the gap for others, to obey His every instruction, and then to simply wait until He shows up.

Every prayer led by the Spirit will touch the heart of God. The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us when we don't know how to pray, according to Romans 8:26.

Jesus was a *man of prayer* before everything else. Every response He made to the people around Him was solely at the direction He received from the Father in prayer! Jesus said,"*Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner*" (John 5:19).

† QUESTIONS †

1. How does the Church "get into step" with God? How do you personally get into step with the Lord? What does keeping in step involve?

2. What does it take to "harmonize" with God in prayer? Is this an agreement of mind? Of heart? Of Spirit to spirit? What does our harmony sound like?

3. What is "submitted prayer"? How does submitted prayer create a heavenly prayer list? How does it change our earthly agenda? Where does the Spirit enter into a truly submitted prayer?

4. Mahesh Chavda tells us, "Every prayer led by the Spirit will touch the heart of God." What does this mean? How can developing your relationship with the Holy Spirit empower your prayers?

5. Have you found that the place of prayer is where God is? Jesus began and concluded His ministry with prayer. Out of this place of relationship He got the strategies of heaven to bring victory on earth. Are you receiving direction and instruction from the Lord as you pray?

† MEDITATION †

"Amos the prophet asked the question, 'Can two walk together, unless they are agreed' (Amos 3:3)? The Church has inundated people with programs and teachings to promote unity, but these attempts have been futile. Why? Because people cannot be 'taught' or 'programmed' into unity. It is a supernatural act that can be done only by the Spirit as all hearts focus on Jesus Christ."

Think about what the author says here. Have you seen this to be true? Is unity a "horizontal effort" or is it a "vertical effort with horizontal results"?

✝ DAY 35 ✝

Exchange Your Independence for Interdependence

CONSECRATE A FAST, CALL A SACRED ASSEMBLY; GATHER THE ELDERS AND ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND CRY OUT TO THE LORD (JOEL 1:14).

† Today's Devotion †

The time has come for us to exchange our independence for *interdependence*. Independence tends to make people vulnerable to deception, particularly when they begin to move in supernatural revelation and gifts.

If the nations are to be harvested and the high places of iniquity are to be pulled down, *it will be through corporate prayer*! When you come together with brothers and sisters to spend hours in consistent, concentrated, corporate harmony with the Holy Spirit, things will begin to change. He will change your perspective, your endurance levels, your patience, and more.

God releases an awesome authority to us when people come together to fast and pray. This authority happens when we *choose* to join our spiritual dynamic energies together as one "laser beam" of God-given power and concentrated heavenly light.

Now it is time for us to rise up in God's glory and descend upon city after city and nation after nation, taking the gospel of peace. Only one thing can come from our obedience: We will literally change the destiny of humanity everywhere we go! The only way we can presume to reshape history is to pray and fast for God to reveal His glory to the nations. We need to allow the passion of God to possess our souls and direct our prayers in intercession.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Define independence. Define interdependence. Contrast these two. Why does independence make us vulnerable to deception?

2. How does your local church fulfill the mandate to harvest nations? How does it address the high places of iniquity in the world? Do you see corporate prayer in your church as a means to fulfill your church's destiny? To fulfill yours?

3. How have you seen consistent, concentrated, corporate harmony with the Holy Spirit change things in your life? How does this happen, even when you are praying corporately for subjects other than your personal needs? Why is corporate prayer necessary for your life?

4. What authority does God give us when we pray corporately? Have you had this kind of authority released to you personally? What happens when we exercise the authority God gives us?

5. How can we become makers or reshapers of history? If prayer and fasting are the tools by which we can presume to reshape history, how does this create a higher priority for the Church?

† MEDITATION †

"Before I ever went into nations to minister, I ***fasted and prayed and did aggressive spiritual warfare****. The 'key to the nations' in my ministry is fasting and prayer. You can go beyond victory to triumph if you will only take up the special weapon that God has placed in your Holy Ghost arsenal. God wants you to go forth in a new and special anointing, but it will only come through prayer and fasting."*

Have you ever found yourself in the midst of an aggressive spiritual battle? How "sharp" were your weapons? How can regular prayer and fasting prepare you for the end-time battles to come?

✝ DAY 36 ✝

Revelation Truth Is True at Every Level

[GOD] SAW THAT THERE WAS NO MAN, AND WONDERED THAT THERE WAS NO INTERCESSOR (ISAIAH 59:16A).

† Today's Devotion †

Revelation comes as we pray and fast, and when God speaks, His revelation is true *at every level.* It will be true in the natural, it will be true in the spiritual, it will be true in the realm of the soul, and it will be true historically. For instance, many prophetic words about Israel are also true for the Church, God's spiritual Israel, because the Lord's Word is *truth.* On every level, the truth will be there.

His Word on healing can be applied the same way. He has promised us healing for our souls, bodies, marriages, churches, cities, and nations. *If we seek Him,* the healing Word will come and accomplish that for which it was sent.

The Lord has prepared a worldwide outpouring of His Holy Spirit for His Church for these last days. It is God's supernatural answer to the desperate needs and end-time pressures that are upon us. Now it is our turn to seek Him, to cry out for Him, to pray and fast for His visitation of glory.

Just as Jesus prays and intercedes for us day and night without ceasing, so should we intercede for the lost and for laborers for the harvest. This great harvest is global in magnitude. Therefore it requires corporate prayer on the same magnitude.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Mahesh Chavda tells us that God's revelation is true at every level. Think about what this means. God does not violate any of His principles as he gives us revelation. Does this give us a standard for judging what we think is revelation or what might be counterfeit?

2. Explain the following: God's revelation is not linear but multi-dimensional. How does this apply to the revelation you have received thus far?

3. How does the principle, that God's revelation is true at all levels work in the healing realm? The work of the cross ministers healing, deliverance and the breaking of curses over individuals, families, cities and nations. In what area can you apply this truth today?

4. What are three of the most desperate needs you believe the world faces today? What are the three that most Christians face? What are the three that you face? What do you think it will take to see a visitation of God's glory to answer these needs?

5. The author offers this premise: magnitude of need=magnitude of corporate prayer required. Why is this premise true?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"People are thirsty; they are dying. Give them the true living waters of the Holy Spirit."

There are entire people groups that are still thirsting for God. What is the living water? How can we increase our capacity to carry this living water? Is your overflow ready to touch the thirsty ones around you? What can you do to help people groups across your nation and the nations who are still desperately in need of the living water?

✝ DAY 37 ✝

How to Release the Apostolic Anointing

NOW IN THE CHURCH THAT WAS AT ANTIOCH THERE WERE CERTAIN PROPHETS AND TEACHERS: BARNABAS, SIMEON WHO WAS CALLED NIGER, LUCIUS OF CYRENE, MANAEN WHO HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP WITH HEROD THE TETRARCH, AND SAUL. AS THEY MINISTERED TO THE LORD AND FASTED, THE HOLY SPIRIT SAID, "NOW SEPARATE TO ME BARNABAS AND SAUL FOR THE WORK TO WHICH I HAVE CALLED THEM." THEN, HAVING FASTED AND PRAYED, AND LAID HANDS ON THEM, THEY SENT THEM AWAY.

So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus (Acts 13:1-4).

† Today's Devotion †

The Book of Acts is God's journal of the first time He poured out His wonderful Spirit upon all flesh and released apostolic ministry into the earth. The world still hasn't recovered from the *first time* God did it, and now He is about to do it *again* with a great flood of His glory and anointing.

But we have to do something to prepare for it *before it comes*. God's glory in us is like precious gold or silver ore closely held by granite or other structures of stone. The stones must be broken up into tiny pieces and then subjected to the celestial fires of God so His precious elements may be released in purity and glory to dazzle the eyes of the world.

For centuries, the Church has lumbered along at half speed on the ministry of only three of the five equipping gifts God originally intended for it to have. The ministry offices of the apostle and the prophet were generally rejected as having "passed away" with the death of the original apostles, while the offices of evangelist, pastor, and teacher somehow escaped the "grave" that claimed the first two. The results are as predictable as if someone decided your six-cylinder vehicle would run better if you unplugged two or three of your spark plugs as "unnecessary."

To make matters worse, nearly every one of the nine supernatural gifts listed by the apostle Paul in First Corinthians 12 were also considered to have "passed away" with the apostles and prophets as well! God Himself and revival are, by definition, *supernatural*. So no matter how uncomfortable men and women may be with the supernatural, God will forever remain just that, as will His gifts.

In this revival, signs and wonders will instantly destroy decades, and even centuries, of the enemy's evil works of bondage in one moment, releasing hundreds of thousands to receive Christ as Lord in one night! This can only happen through the *power of the Spirit*. We thank God the Father for the

anointing, but He is calling us to go deeper into Him through fasting and prayer. Then He can entrust and empower us with the same *power* of the Spirit He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, after His 40 days of fasting in the wilderness.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Mahesh Chavda tells us that the "world still hasn't recovered from the first time" God poured His Spirit upon all flesh. The author is implying that the world is still reverberating with the aftershocks from the first time the Spirit was poured out at Pentecost. What are some of the individual and corporate signs that give evidence that this statement is true for us today?

2. What "stones" do you have in your life? Where does God need to break up these stones into tiny pieces and subject them to His celestial fires? Does the Church need the same process to occur? In what way?

3. Why do you think the fivefold ministry gifts are not embraced in much of the Church today? What do you think would make the difference so we could experience them in their fullness? Why don't we see more gifts of the Spirit in operation within all churches?

4. Why do you think that many in the Church are so uncomfortable with the supernatural? How can we turn the tide so that we operate in the supernatural with more regularity? What do you need to do to operate in the supernatural to a greater extent?

5. How is revival dependent upon the supernatural? What kind of testimony do supernatural gifts give to the unbelieving world? What kind of conviction can they bring to the wayward Church?

† MEDITATION †

"In the first century, apostolic ministry was released in the context of the Church praying fervently and fasting corporately. In this atmosphere, the Holy Spirit speaks with very specific and definite direction. It was in obedience to specific direction from the Holy Spirit that the church leaders at Antioch laid hands on Barnabas and Saul 'having fasted and prayed.' What does this mean for us today?"

What does this mean for you and the local church you attend? How does corporate prayer and fasting release apostolic ministry? Have you seen this happen? Pray for the restoration of the apostolic ministry in the church at large and claim ongoing visitation for your local church.

✝ DAY 38 ✝

He Has Called Us to Fast, Pray, and Obey

Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in

SECRET WILL REWARD YOU OPENLY (MATTHEW 6:16-18).

† Today's Devotion †

As Elijah was taken into Heaven, Elisha was thirsty and hungry to see the manifested power of the living God *pass to his generation*. This transition of power (see 2 Kings 2) foreshadowed the passing of the anointing described in the Book of Matthew, when Jesus said, "*All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth*" (Matt. 28:18 KJV).

Jesus can release apostolic anointing into our lives, but first we must fast, pray, and obey. With this anointing, our ministry will not be apologetic, half-hearted, or apathetic or laced with fear, doubt, or unbelief. It will be prophetic and apostolic, fitted with a double-edged sharpness that comes only from the Holy Spirit.

If *prayer* is the capsule containing our requests to God, then *fasting* is the booster rocket that lifts our prayers into the heavenlies. When the corporate prayers of the many are mounted on the booster rocket of *corporate fasting*, they take on a supernatural power that few on earth have ever seen!

In Matthew 6:16-18, Jesus focused on the right motives for fasting. Jesus said, "And when you fast…." He did not say "*if* you decide to," or "*if* you feel so led by the Spirit to one day fast…." He spoke of fasting with finality and expectation because Jesus *expected* His followers to fast as well as to pray.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Why is obedience so tightly linked to fasting and prayer? Give personal examples of times when fasting, prayer and obedience combined together in your life have resulted in tangible fruit. How does obedience work to "extend" our prayers into our daily lives?

2. Compare you current participation in prayer, fasting, and obedience. Are you balanced in all three areas?

3. The author gives us a picture of prayer as a space capsule and fasting as the booster rocket that lifts it to the throne of God. What then might obedience look like in this picture?

4. We have dealt with the power of corporate prayer and corporate fasting. What about corporate obedience? What does that look like? What effect might it have?

5. What are the right motives for fasting? When Jesus talked about our motives, why did He see fasting as something private between God and us? Why did Jesus expect us to fast? Does He still expect you to do so?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"For centuries the Church has been standing on that mount, as it were, gazing up into Heaven, expecting Jesus to do from Heaven what He has empowered us to do through the Holy Spirit ***on the earth****! The magnitude of God's move in our generation demands that we step down from the mount of spiritual paralysis, take up the mantle of anointing and power Jesus gave us, and begin to* ***obey His commands****."*

Have you had spiritual paralysis? Do you have it today? How can you take up your mantle of anointing? Get down on your knees and ask the Lord to release you from any paralysis you currently bear. Ask Him to help you take the mantle He has prepared just for you.

✝ DAY 39 ✝

The Abundance of Rain Is Coming

AND MY SPEECH AND MY PREACHING WERE NOT WITH PERSUASIVE WORDS OF HUMAN WISDOM, BUT IN DEMONSTRATION OF THE SPIRIT AND OF POWER, THAT YOUR FAITH SHOULD NOT BE IN THE WISDOM OF MEN BUT IN THE POWER OF GOD (1 CORINTHIANS 2:4-5).

† Today's Devotion †

We are now at the end of our drought in a dry land. The Church is beginning to hear the sound of the abundance of rain! We are a thirsty people! But now we are boldly prophesying to this generation: "*Prepare yourselves for an outpouring that will change the very geography and face of the earth! Prepare to see the earth covered with the glory of God!*"

I believe that we have been doing many things by the might of man in recent years, and we need to take our hands off this move of God. This is His revival and His harvest. There is no room for the flesh of man to glory in His presence or to control and manipulate in His "absence."

You and I are to be the stewards of this new wave of God's glory, but first we must *pray it through*. Then it will immerse you in God's anointing as never before.

The Lord is asking us today, "Will you be a people who will see the vision—My vision—and be willing to *pay the price* through prayer and fasting?"

As we pray and fast, God will give us divine favor with government officials, village leaders, and every other "gatekeeper" we may encounter along the way—even the weather.

† QUESTIONS †

1. Rain produces abundance. The rain of God's glory produces abundance in many areas—spiritually, emotionally, physically, mentally, environmentally, materially, and governmentally. Can you name any others? How does the rain affect each of these areas?

2. Mahesh Chavda prophetically tells us to prepare for the rain of God's glory. How should we prepare individually, as local churches? Have you experienced divine favor anywhere in your life? How does this work?

3. How can we eliminate the "might of man" from the equation and take our hands off the move of God? Is this just an exhortation to leaders, or also to everyday Christians? Defend your answer.

4. What does "praying it through" mean to you? How do you pray things through?

5. Do you feel you see the vision of the Lord? What vision do you see? What do you see for yourself and your family? Your church? Your city? The nation? The world? Are you willing to pay the price through prayer and fasting to see more of God's vision?

† MEDITATION †

"Fasting moves you from the natural realm into the supernatural realm, and that is the only place you can get supernatural revelation, authorization, and power from the Holy Spirit."

What does the "rain" of the Spirit mean to you? What do you receive from this "rain"? Think back to when there has been a time of spiritual rain in your life. Journal some of the precious gifts the Lord unfolded in your life in that season. Are you thirsting for more? Ask the Lord to speak to your heart as to how to position yourself for His next band of rain.

✝ DAY 40 ✝

Now That's the Power of God!

PREACH THE WORD! BE READY IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON. CONVINCE, REBUKE, EXHORT, WITH ALL LONGSUFFERING AND TEACHING (2 TIMOTHY 4:2).

† Today's Devotion †

God wants to use ordinary people to confront the enemy and bring the lost to Jesus. God wants to give signs, wonders, and miracles today to further the gospel and glorify His name. But we must be genuinely committed to touch and bless the needy around us as Jesus did.

The greater the move of God, the greater will be satan's opposition to us at times. *If we have paid the price in obedience through prayer and fasting,* God will transform what the enemy meant for evil into something incredibly good.

Very often, God will work through us when we "don't feel a thing," just to prove that it is God who does the work. God's call has nothing to do with feelings or circumstances. As soldiers of the Lord, we are commanded to be "instant in season and out of season" in all things.

We will literally see the ancient prophecy come to pass: "Your sons and your daughters will prophesy!" God will use a new army of young warriors to carry much of the weight and momentum of this great harvest. We who are older must be ready to accept them, encourage them, and wisely direct them in the things of God. As they are properly mentored, in the right season may they be released as disciples seasoned and ready.

† QUESTIONS †

1. "God wants to use ordinary people." How ordinary are you? Do you then qualify for this end-time army? Do you qualify to confront the enemy and bring lost souls to Jesus? How strongly do you believe this?

2. What are two reasons that God gives us signs and wonders? How do these purposes distinguish those who counterfeit God's miracles from those who are genuine? Is it easy for you to tell the difference?

3. Why are we surprised at opposition when God is moving greatly among us? Why are we shaken by distractions and negative circumstances? How should we conduct ourselves? How can we prepare for this opposition?

4. Why does God work through us even when we don't feel anything? How can we push past our feelings to see God's glory on a consistent basis? When we let our feelings or circumstances govern us, why do we operate in a type of idolatry? Why do we assign more power to the negative circumstances than we do to God?

5. Have you seen God working in children and teens? Have you seen an increase of spirituality among young adults? How can the older generation disciple and steward the gifts in the next? Are you ready to father and mother the next generation?

✝ MEDITATION ✝

"This revival and great harvest will recognize no boundaries, barriers, walls, or preferences. If anything, God will go out of His way to touch the poor, the outcast, the forgotten, and the lowly among us! We must have the same heart as our Master or we will be left behind and wish we had yielded."

Take some time to think about the boundaries, barriers, walls, and preferences the Church seems to have. Then note the ones you have personally. Where has God broken you out of your preconceptions? Are you ready to have Him break you out of your current boundaries? God is about to give the breakthrough for you and His Church. May we be faithful stewards of the victories that God allows us to walk in. Start thanking Him and praising Him for the breakthrough in your life and in the Church.

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Additional copies of this book and other book titles from DESTINY IMAGE are available at your local bookstore.

For a complete list of our titles, visit us at www.destinyimage.com
Send a request for a catalog to:

Destiny Image® Publishers, Inc.
P.O. Box 310
Shippensburg, PA 17257-0310

"Speaking to the Purposes of God for This Generation and for the Generations to Come"

ASR(not)proudly PRESENTS

a *re-release* of **this**

beautiful book

We are Anti-Scene Releases group, we are free, independent, and not caring MAD people.